

Att'y Dkt. No.: US-1460

U.S. App. No: 10/023,711

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite the Claims as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

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1. (previously presented) A method for producing an L-amino acid comprising culturing an *Escherichia coli* bacterium in a medium; allowing said L-amino acid to accumulate in the medium and/or in the cells of the bacterium; and collecting said L-amino acid, wherein the endogenous *Escherichia coli* gene encoding the RMF protein is mutated so that the RMF protein is inactive, and wherein said L-amino acid is produced in larger quantities than if the RMF protein were active.
- 2-5. (cancelled)
6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said L-amino acid is L-lysine.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said bacterium ~~comprises~~ is WC196 Δ rmf.
- 8-9. (cancelled)
10. (previously presented) A method for producing an L-amino acid comprising culturing an *Escherichia coli* bacterium in a medium; allowing said L-amino acid to accumulate in the medium and/or in the cells of the bacterium; and collecting said L-amino acid, and wherein an expression control sequence of the endogenous *Escherichia coli* gene encoding the RMF protein is mutated so that said RMF protein is inactive, and wherein said L-amino acid is produced in larger quantities than if said RMF protein were active.
11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said L-amino acid is L-lysine.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said bacterium ~~comprises~~ is WC196 Δ rmf.
13. (cancelled)
14. (cancelled)